

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 17, line 22 of the specification with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The plasmid constructs were sequenced across the gene inserts and protein expression was certified in vitro in HuH-7 cells after transient transfection and in SP2/0 target cells after stable transfection, respectively. Protein bands of about 70 kD for NS3, 30 kD for NS4 and 125 kD for NS5 were found to be expressed within the cell but not secreted into the culture medium (see Figure 1B).--

Please insert new page 28 containing the Abstract as follows:

-- ABSTRACT

Nucleic acid molecule that comprise a hepatitis C nonstructural protein including specifically disclosed DNA sequences are disclosed. Pharmaceutical compositions that contain nucleic acid molecules comprising a hepatitis C nonstructural protein including a nucleotide sequence encoding NS3, NS4, or NS5, or a combination thereof, operably linked to regulatory elements functional in human cells are disclosed. Methods of immunizing individuals susceptible to or infected by hepatitis C virus comprising administering such pharmaceutical compositions are disclosed.--

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1, 5, 9 and 29-31 and amend claims 2-4, 6, 8, 10-13, 15, 17 and 32 as follows:

2. (Amended) The recombinant nucleic acid molecule of claim 6 wherein said nonstructural protein is selected from the group consisting of NS3, NS4, and NS5.
3. (Amended) The recombinant nucleic acid molecule of claim 6 wherein said nucleotide sequence encodes a fusion protein encoding NS3, NS4, or NS5, or any combination thereof.